



The Fane Road Archaeology Group (FRAG)

Fourth Annual General Meeting – 2020/21

Monday, 6th September, 2021

1. **Welcome:**

Nick Coneybear (NJC) welcomed those present and thanked them for attending.

2. **Minutes of the Previous Annual General Meeting:**

Approved and signed off.

3. **Chairman's Report:**

NJC began by asking for a moment of silent reflection in memory of Aaron Parker, Parkway Club steward, who passed away in August. A letter of condolence had been sent on behalf of FRAG members.

It had been a strange year because of the COVID19 pandemic. The last AGM was in April 2019 so those reporting on the years ended March 2020 and March 2021 did not take place. There had been no face to face committee meetings since March 2020 although the committee had been meeting regularly via Zoom.

During 2020 a grant from the Francis & Maisie Pryor Trust was successfully applied for. This enabled publicity materials to be bought, some of which were on display. Subscriptions have been rolled over until January 2022.

As with our regular talks it was not possible to go ahead with the planned 2020 excavation at Fane Road.

At Sacrewell Farm interest is now being expressed in undertaking archaeological work on the Roman Villa site. NJC will liaise with the steward, with some geophysics perhaps being the starting point. Work on the A47 at Sacrewell is not due to begin until 2023.

Virtual Jigsaw meetings have continued throughout the pandemic. NJC will attend another tomorrow.

FRAG's first in person event of 2021 took place in June. Stephen Upex led a guided tour of Fotheringhay. This was over-subscribed and very well received by all who attended.

Another guided walk, around the earthworks of Sawtry Abbey, led by Phil Hill and Kevin Redgate is scheduled for the coming weekend. Places are still available.

NJC welcomed suggestions from members for future events.
The committee was thanked, especially RG for maintaining the website.

4. Treasurer's Report:

See attached.

5. Field Officer's Report:

The last event was at the Fane Road villa site in May 2019. Evidence was found of a wall and hypocaust system. Attempts to locate the "plunge pool" identified in 2014 were, however, unsuccessful. Finds of interest included a stud or rivet and a high grade, copper alloy object (possibly medical instrument, stylus or toilet item). Preparations are in progress to return to the site and volunteers will be needed. More geophysics surveys are also planned for Itter Park. During lockdown the WSI and reports on previous excavations at Fane Road were completed and submitted to the Peterborough City Council archaeologist.

6. Election of FRAG Officers

All serving officers agreed to be re-elected. There being no other candidates, a vote was taken and all were unanimously returned.

The current committee therefore remains as:

Position	Member
Chairman	Nick Coneybear
Secretary	Nick Coneybear
Treasurer	Sue Deoraj
Field Officer	Phil Hill
Assistant Field Officer	Kevin Redgate
Safeguarding Officer	Sue Deoraj
Assistant Safeguarding Officer	Janice Gibson
Minutes Secretary	Janice Gibson
Communications Officer	Rex Gibson
Committee member	Wendy Gamble
Auditor	Amanda Bettany

7. Programme for 2021-2022

Events to December 2021:

11th October – 'Water Newton Treasure', Phil Hill

1st November – Portable Antiquities Scheme, Rebecca Casa-Hatton

6th December – 'Must Farm', Mark Knight (This event will be at Paston & Gunthorpe Community Hall.

Members are invited to suggest ideas for 2022.

8. AOB:

- NJC suggested an audit of FRAG equipment stored in Sue Barcis's barn and will be asking for volunteers to help with this.
- NJC is to investigate the purchase of a portable PA system. Noise from the adjoining room sometimes makes it difficult to hear speakers. Although generally thought to be a good idea, there were words of caution from members about the quality of such systems.
- Members were advised of the opportunity to take part in test pitting being organised at Abbey Farm, Histon through HIAG in September and October. RG to add to website.

9. Next Committee Meeting: Monday, 11th October 2021 at the Parkway Club, 20.30

Fane Road Archaeology Group (FRAG)

AGM 6th September 2021 – Parkway Club Peterborough

Treasurer's Report

Good to see so many members (and guests) here this evening after such a long break.

Lockdown prevented us from the April 2020 AGM, so the 2 financial years are being reported as one, although audits for both years have been undertaken.

Remarkably, as our meetings resume and as a result of the recent Fotheringhay walk with Steve Upex, we have continued to increase our membership numbers. Our membership now stands at 57 members, which incidentally is the same number of members as when FRAG first started in 2015. Hopefully, we will retain all members and welcome new members next year.

The bank balance in April 2021 totalled £1880. This included a grant of £700 from the Francis and Maisie Pryor Charitable Trust, which has since been used to purchase promotional material for future FRAG events.

Group insurance remains the highest single cost, although we were able to reduce it this year to around £200. Fees for speakers average £40 and speakers often donate this to a relevant local group or cause. Room hire has remained at £15 per session and website costs are £12 per month.

A couple of scams reached the account during lockdown. Interestingly, 2 direct debits were paid into the account, from AXA Insurance. Both were duly noted and classed as fraudulent. AXA was sent a cheque as a refund, but they declined to cash it, so we benefitted from a donation of £30.

The second scam came via SAGA, this time a direct debit was paid out of the account. This was subsequently refunded by TSB as this too was fraudulent.

We also received a couple of donations, including one from someone who inadvertently joined the wrong group.

Membership fees have been rolled over yet again, until the end of this year and hopefully we will be able to have a full year of events in 2022.